

At page 1, before line 1, please insert the following heading:

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

At page 1, after line 9, please insert the following heading:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

At page 2, after line 9, please insert the following heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

At page 3, before line 1, please insert the following heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

At page 3, after line 25, please insert the following heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-9 and add the following new claims:

10. (Newly Added) An arterial graft device for reinforcing bifurcated arteries having a distal main artery portion and two proximal legs extending from a bifurcation, the arterial graft device comprising a body adapted for at least partial placement in the main artery portion and a separate elongated segment, the body including: (a) an integral elongated segment extending proximally from a bifurcated juncture to a first of the two legs to internally connect the main artery portion with the first leg; and (b) a second segment extending proximally from the bifurcated juncture towards the second leg and comprising: (i) a curved connecting portion; (ii) a transition portion of proximally increasing diameter; and (iii) a third portion having a greater diameter than the transition portion, the second segment for

12 receiving and guiding a catheter guidewire inserted along the second leg and
13 for guiding the separate elongated segment of the graft device for connection
14 with the second segment.

1 11. (Newly Added) The graft device of claim 10 further
2 comprising an expandable retaining device to affix the body to the main
3 artery portion.

1 12. (Newly Added) The graft device of claim 10, wherein
2 the separate elongated segment further comprises an axially extended and
3 entirely circumferentially extended outer connecting surface adapted to bear
4 upon the connecting portion of the body.

1 13. (Newly Added) The graft device of claim 10, wherein
2 the second segment is formed by a foldable structure, which can be
3 compressed and expanded and inserted together with the body within a
4 catheter sheath.

1 14. (Newly Added) The graft device of claim 10, wherein
2 the second segment and the body comprise a unitary structure of the same
3 material.

1 15. (Newly Added) The graft device according to claim 14,
2 wherein the material is selected from the group comprising plastic and metal
3 and the device is expandable by any of the following mechanisms: balloon
4 expansion, thermal memory, elasticity, spring-loaded elasticity, and
5 autoexpansion.

1 16. (Newly Added) The graft device according to claim 14,
2 wherein the material is polyethylene or polytetrafluoroethylene.

1 17. (Newly Added) The graft device according to claim 10,
2 wherein the graft device forms a bifurcated aortic endoluminal graft adapted
3 for being disposed within the infra-renal aorta and the iliac arteries, the
4 integral elongated segment extending into a first iliac artery and the second
5 segment extending in the aorta towards a second iliac artery.

1 18. (Newly Added) An arterial graft device for reinforcing
2 bifurcated arteries having a distal main artery portion and two proximal legs
3 extending from a bifurcation, the arterial graft device comprising a body
4 adapted for at least partial placement in the main artery portion and a
5 separate elongated segment, the body including: (a) an integral elongated
6 segment extending proximally from a bifurcated juncture to a first of the two
7 legs to internally connect the main artery portion with the first leg; and (b) a
8 second segment having a connecting opening and extending towards the
9 second leg and having a connecting surface of distally increasing diameter as
10 the second segment extends from the connecting opening towards the
11 bifurcated juncture and of proximally increasing diameter as the second
12 segment extends from the connecting opening towards the second leg for
13 receiving and guiding a catheter guidewire inserted along the second leg and
14 for guiding the separate elongated segment of the graft device for connection
15 with the second segment.

1 19. (Newly Added) The graft device of claim 18 further
2 comprising an expandable retaining device to affix the body to the main
3 artery portion.

1 20. (Newly Added) The graft device of claim 18, wherein
2 the separate elongated segment further comprises an axially extended and
3 entirely circumferentially extended outer connecting surface adapted to bear
4 upon the connecting surface of the body.

1 21. (Newly Added) The graft device of claim 18, wherein
2 the second segment is formed by a foldable structure, which can be
3 compressed and expanded and inserted together with the body within a
4 catheter sheath.

1 22. (Newly Added) The graft device of claim 18, wherein
2 the second segment and the body comprise a unitary structure of the same
3 material.